

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks. In the Office action mailed November 10, 2004, claims 6-12 were allowed. Additionally, claim 5 was objected to. Finally, claims 1-4, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,115,889 to Mickelson, U.S. Patent No. 557,800 to Gray, and/or U.S. Patent No. 273,191 to Thomas.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 6-12 were allowed. Applicant also has rewritten claim 5 in independent form. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection of claim 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicant has canceled claims 1-4, 13, and 14 without prejudice.

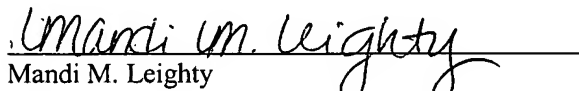
Conclusion

The above amendments and remarks are believed to fully address the Examiner's rejections, and to place the entire application in condition for allowance. A prompt indication of the same is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephonic interview.

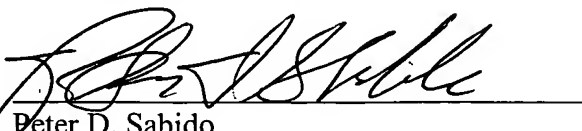
Respectfully submitted,

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 8, 2005.


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